

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-15. (cancelled)
16. (new) An isolated polynucleotide comprising:
  - (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide having cysteine  $\gamma$  synthase activity, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence of at least 90% sequence identity, based on the Clustal method of alignment, when compared to SEQ ID NO:31, or
  - (b) the full-length complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a).
17. (new) The polynucleotide of Claim 16, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide has at least 95% sequence identity, based on the Clustal method of alignment, when compared to SEQ ID NO:31.
18. (new) The polynucleotide of Claim 16, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:31.
19. (new) The polynucleotide of Claim 16 wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:30.
20. (new) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 16.
21. (new) A recombinant DNA construct comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 16 operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence.
22. (new) A method for transforming a cell, comprising transforming a cell with the polynucleotide of Claim 16.
23. (new) A cell comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 21.
24. (new) A plant comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 21.
25. (new) A seed comprising the recombinant DNA construct of Claim 21.
26. (new) A method of selecting an isolated polynucleotide that affects the level of expression of a polypeptide in a plant cell, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) constructing the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 16;
  - (b) introducing the isolated polynucleotide into the plant cell;
  - (c) measuring the level of the polypeptide of Claim 16 in the plant cell containing the polynucleotide; and
  - (d) comparing the level of the polypeptide in the plant cell containing the isolated polynucleotide with the level of the polypeptide in a plant cell that does not contain the polynucleotide.